

**STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD
BOARD MEETING SESSION – DIVISION OF WATER QUALITY
MAY 21, 2019**

ITEM 4

SUBJECT

CONSIDERATION OF A PROPOSED RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OR DESIGNEE TO APPLY FOR AND ACCEPT GRANTS FOR UNDERGROUND STORAGE TANK CORRECTIVE ACTION AND LEAK PREVENTION AND EXECUTE A COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT WITH THE UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY, REGION 9

DISCUSSION

Since 1989, the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) has assisted in implementing the federal leaking underground storage tank (LUST) program by performing corrective action and leak prevention activities throughout California. As part of this effort, the United States Environmental Protection Agency, Region 9 (U.S. EPA) has provided annual grant funding to California's underground storage tank (UST) corrective action and leak prevention programs through cooperative grant agreements over the past 30 years. The federal LUST cleanup and leak prevention grants support implementation of California's UST program and the State Water Board's goal to decrease the number of LUSTs and improve the UST regulatory program. For fiscal years 2019-20 through 2023-24, the U.S. EPA has invited the State Water Board to apply for up to \$32,000,000 (over a five-year period) in federal LUST funds for UST corrective action and leak prevention. Funds will be used to support:

- Implementation of the State Water Board's Low-Threat UST Case Closure Policy and Implementation Plan.
- Ongoing development and implementation of the California Environmental Reporting System (CERS), as required by CalEPA's Unified Program.
- Oversight of local implementing agency inspection and enforcement actions to promote compliance with federal and state requirements.

POLICY ISSUE

Should the State Water Board authorize the Executive Director or designee to apply for and accept the U.S. EPA UST corrective action and leak prevention grants, and execute any subsequent amendments? Should the State Water Board authorize the Executive Director or designee to execute a cooperative agreement with U.S. EPA?

FISCAL IMPACT

An amount not to exceed \$32,000,000 in federal funds will be made available to the State Water Board over the next five fiscal years. Acceptance of these grants will result in a fiscal benefit to the State Water Board.

REGIONAL BOARD IMPACT

The federal LUST grant provides partial funding to the LUST corrective action programs at each of the nine Regional Water Quality Control Boards.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

The State Water Board:

1. Authorizes the Executive Director or designee to apply for and accept the U.S. EPA funds for UST corrective action and leak prevention for Fiscal Years 2019-20 through 2023-24 and execute any subsequent amendments; and
2. Authorizes the Executive Director or designee to execute a cooperative agreement with U.S. EPA.

State Water Board action on this item will assist the Water Boards in reaching Goal 2 of the Strategic Plan Update: 2008-2012 to improve and protect groundwater quality in high-use basins by 2030. In particular, approval of this item will assist in fulfilling Objective/Action 2.2.3. Upon identification of sources contributing to the contamination of groundwater relied on by these communities, take appropriate regulatory or enforcement action.